



ALABAMA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION  
Medical Quality Assurance

One Perimeter Park South, Suite 200 North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35243-2354  
Telephone (205) 970-1600

TOLL FREE 1-800-760-4550  
Administration FAX (205) 970-1616  
Medical Administration FAX (205) 970-1624

**GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02 -16**  
**For Immediate Distribution**

**TO:** **Alabama Hospitals:** Administrator, Chief of Staff, Utilization Review/Quality Assurance Department, Medical Records Department, PPS Contact, Compliance Officer, PEPP Contact, Case Managers

**FROM:** James F. DeLong, M.D., Medical Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Henry W. Koehler, Chief Executive Officer \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** February 28, 2002

**SUBJECT: REVISED MEDICARE SEVERITY OF ILLNESS/INTENSITY OF SERVICE (SI/IS) CRITERIA**

- I. This General Memorandum provides you with the recently revised screening criteria for Medicare patients admitted to short term and long term acute care hospitals in Alabama.
- II. AQAF will begin using this criteria for cases reviewed after April 1, 2002. This revision replaces all previous criteria updates and revisions. Providers should begin using the criteria upon receipt.
- III. The revised criteria set was reviewed and updated by AQAF in cooperation with provider and physician specialists representing medical specialty societies throughout the state. It is a screening tool designed for use by non-physician reviewers to identify hospital admissions and continued stays not appearing to be medically necessary or appropriate. It is not a guide to the physician in treating the patient and does not constitute a standard of medical practice.
- IV. Your facility has our permission to copy and distribute the criteria to your medical staff and hospital utilization management staff. The criteria cannot be copied for sale or distribution outside your facility. Additional copies may be ordered from AQAF at \$50.00 per copy.
- V. The criteria document is provided in hard copy, diskette and compact disc. In order to view the disc, you will need to use Adobe Acrobat, which is included. If you have questions or problems regarding the diskette or CD, please contact Fisher Smith at (205) 970-1600 or 800-760-4550, ext. 3408.

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VI. Questions concerning this memorandum or the criteria may be directed to Donnie V. Olis, BSN, Vice President, Review Operations, (205) 970- 1600 or 800-760-4550, ext. 3201.

Enc.

cc: AQAF Board of Directors; Logan Malone, FMQAI; Sandy McMillan, PO/DHHS; C.Kuhlman, MASA; M.Horsley, AlaHA—Montgomery; Frazer Rolen, AlaHA-Birmingham; L.Northcutt, BCBS; Fred Robertson, M.D., Cahaba GBA; Greg McKinney, M.D., Cahaba GBA; Mary Woon, MoO.